

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-17, 21 and 22 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-17, 21 and 22 were rejected. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added in this paper. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-17, 21 and 22 will remain pending in this application. Of these nineteen (19) claims, two (2) claims (claim 1 and 17) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Drawings

3. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on August 31, 2001 have been accepted as formal drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-16, 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Amendments to the Specification

5. The Examiner requested that Applicant updates the references in Applicant's specification to related U.S. Patent Applications. Applicant has accordingly amended the specification to insert the Application Numbers for these applications. Applicant has also amended the titles for applications in which the title has been amended to correctly reflect the current title for each of these applications.

Claim Objections

6. Independent claim 1 has been objected to because of an informality. Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct this deficiency. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this claim objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

7. Independent claims 1 and 17 and dependent claims 2-16 and 21-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 1 and 17 to obviate the Examiner's rejection and accordingly respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

8. Independent claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,889,990 to Coleman, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Coleman"). Based upon the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

9. Claim 1 recites, in part: "A module management system ... comprising:

a library of data miner modules each configured to access hardware and/or software entities in a computing environment for management information;

a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data miner module; and

a module manager that provides access to each of said data miner modules stored in said library of data miner modules for which said library of registration files includes a corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.

10. In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner alleged that elements 50-53 of Fig. 5 of Coleman allegedly disclose "a library of data miner modules" as recited in claim 1. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner for at least the following reasons. Elements 50-53 of Fig. 5 of Coleman disclose an opaque device library (ODL) 50, an applications graphics library (AGL) 51, a programmers web library (PWL) 52, and a system library (SL) 54, respectively. (See,

Coleman at col. 6 lns. 38-31). The ODL provides an interface for interacting with I/O devices. (*See*, Coleman at col. 6 lns. 38-31). For example, the ODL may be used to open a network connection, detecting a file as an audio file, and playing the audio file. (*See*, Coleman at col. 8 lns. 40-45). The AGL is an interface for drawing and displaying images. (*See*, Coleman at col. 6 lns. 53-55). The PWL is a tool for parsing URLs and making HTTP requests. (*See*, Coleman at col. 7 lns. 6-9). The SL provides system infrastructure support and its two primary functions are memory management and error handling. (*See*, Coleman at col. 6 lns. 18-21). None of these elements, however, teach or suggest accessing hardware and/or software entities to obtain management information. As such, Coleman fails to teach or suggest “a library of data miner modules each configured to access hardware and/or software entities in a computing environment for management information,” as recited in claim 1.

11. Applicant further disagrees with the Examiner’s assertion that Coleman teaches “a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data miner module,” as recited in claim 1. In support of the Examiner’s assertion, the Examiner cited the dynamic registration functions 108 of the ODL illustrated in Figure 7 of Coleman. These dynamic registration functions are described as providing an interface to a device, like a network interface, a display, etc. (*See*, Coleman at col. 8 lns. 3-6). Applicant further notes that col. 11 lns. 46-51 of Coleman does not discuss the dynamic registration functions of the ODL of Figure 8. Instead, this section discusses registration functions of the SL that allow higher layer modules (e.g., the AGL) to register with the SL. However, regardless of whether the Examiner is relying on the registrations functions of the ODL or the registration functions of the SL, neither teach or suggest registration files each defining an implementation of a data miner module. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Coleman fails to teach or suggest “a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data miner module,” as recited in claim 1.

12. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 for at least the above-stated reasons.

Dependent Claims

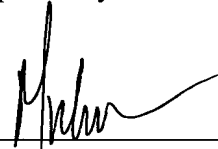
13. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and

independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

14. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Verga', is written over a horizontal line.

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August 24, 2005